1997-2003 Ford Escort - Front Brake Pad Replacement

1997-2003 Ford Escort | Moderate | 1-2 hours | $82 DIY

TOOLS

Floor jack Jack stands (2) Lug wrench or breaker bar with correct socket Socket and ratchet set C-clamp or brake caliper piston tool Brake cleaner spray Wire brush High-temperature brake grease Torque wrench Wheel chocks Gloves and safety glasses Drain pan or drip tray

PARTS

Front brake pad set for 1997-2003 Escort $47.00
Front rotors (if worn) $120.00
Brake cleaner spray $7.00
Brake grease $15.00
Brake fluid $13.00

STEPS

1. **Prepare the car - Park on a flat surface, apply the parking brake, and chock the rear** wheels. Crack the front lug nuts loose while the tire is still on the ground.
2. **Jack up and secure - Lift the front corner with a floor jack and place a jack stand under** the subframe or pinch weld. Lower the car onto the stand and confirm it is stable.
3. **Take the wheel off - Remove the lug nuts and the wheel to expose the brake caliper and** rotor. This is a good time to glance at the tire's inner edge for uneven wear.
4. **Unbolt the caliper - Remove the two caliper bolts and slide the caliper off the rotor.** Hook it to the strut spring with a piece of wire so the flexible brake hose is never stretched.
5. **Remove pads and inspect - Slide the old pads out of the anchor bracket and look at the** wear pattern on each. Check the rotor for deep grooves or a sharp outer lip, either of which means it should be replaced along with the pads.
6. **Push the piston back - Set an old pad over the piston and compress it with a C-clamp** until it is flush with the caliper body. If the master cylinder reservoir looks like it will overflow, draw some fluid out with a turkey baster first.
7. **Clean and lube contact points - Scrub the pad sliding surfaces in the bracket with a wire** brush until shiny, then apply a light coat of brake grease. Keep all grease off the friction material and rotor.
8. **Install the new pads - Drop the new pads into the bracket in the same orientation as the** old set, making sure the wear sensor tab sits where the original was. They should fit snugly but slide freely.
9. **Reinstall everything - Slide the caliper back over the pads and rotor, reinstall and** tighten the caliper bolts, then mount the wheel. Lower the car and tighten the lug nuts in a star pattern.
10. **Test carefully - Pump the brake pedal with the engine off until it firms up, then check** the fluid level under the hood. Drive at low speed first, testing the brakes gently, then complete the bed-in with several moderate stops.

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